

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 has been amended, supra, to include the limitations of claim 12. Claim 12 has been cancelled, supra, without prejudice and disclaimer of subject matter. Additional support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found in the originally filed specification at, e.g., page 4, lines 14-19 and page 5, lines 14-16.

No new matter has been added.

The Office stated on page 5 of the Office Action that "[c]laims 2-7, 12-20 and 24 are objected to for depending upon a rejected base claim." Applicant understand that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent format.

Related art rejections

1. The 35 USC § 102(b) rejection of claims 1 and 21-23 in view of EP 0 489 693 ("*Linder*") has been obviated by amendment. Claim 1 has been amended, supra, to include the limitations of claim 12. Claim 1 is allowable over the reference cited against the claims for the same reasons claim 12 is allowable.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

2. The 35 USC § 103(a) rejection of claim 1 in view of US 6,346,570 ("*Kazuyuki*") has been obviated by amendment. Claim 1 has been amended, supra, to include the limitations of claim 12. Claim 1 is allowable over the reference cited against the claims for the same reasons claim 12 is allowable.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Request for Rejoinder

MPEP § 821.04 states: "In order to be eligible for rejoinder, a claim to a nonelected invention must depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable claim." Applicants note that withdrawn claims 8-11 depend from *and* contain all the limitations of claim 1. Rejoinder is therefore appropriate and Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of claims 8-11.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully suggest that the present invention is in condition for allowance. Notification thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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